

1 EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General  
of the State of California  
2 KAREN B. CHAPPELLE  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 BRIAN G. WALSH, State Bar No. 207621  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
5 Telephone: (213) 897-2535  
Facsimile: (213) 897-2804  
6

7 Attorneys for Complainant

8 **BEFORE THE**  
9 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
10 **BUREAU OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS**  
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. VN-2001-3232

13 STEPHANIE MELISSA DAWSON  
14 3123 Milano #A  
Ontario, CA 91761

**A C C U S A T I O N**

15 Vocational Nurse License No. VN 181769

Respondent.

16 Complainant alleges:

17 **PARTIES**

- 18 1. Teresa Bello-Jones, J.D., M.S.N., R.N. (Complainant) brings this  
19 Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Bureau of Vocational  
20 Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, Department of Consumer Affairs.  
21 2. On or about August 13, 1997, the Bureau of Vocational Nursing and  
22 Psychiatric Technicians (Bureau), issued Vocational Nurse License No. VN 181769 to  
23 Respondent Stephanie Melissa Dawson (Respondent). The Vocational Nurse License was in full  
24 force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on April 30,  
25 2009, unless renewed.

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## JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Director of Consumer Affairs (Director) for the Bureau, under the authority of the following laws. All Section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

## STATUTORY PROVISIONS

4. Section 22 states:

“(a) ‘Board’ as used in any provisions of this Code, refers to the board in which the administration of the provision is vested, and unless otherwise expressly provided, shall include ‘bureau,’ ‘commission,’ ‘committee,’ ‘department,’ ‘division,’ ‘examining committee,’ ‘program,’ and ‘agency.’

“(b) Whenever the regulatory program of a board that is subject to review by the Joint Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Consumer Protection, as provided for in Division 1.2 (commencing with Section 473), is taken over by the department, that program shall be designated as a ‘bureau.’”

5. Section 101.1, subdivision (b), states:

“(1) In the event that any board, as defined in Section 477, becomes inoperative or is repealed in accordance with the act that added this section, or by subsequent acts, the Department of Consumer Affairs shall succeed to and is vested with all the duties, powers, purposes, responsibilities and jurisdiction not otherwise repealed or made inoperative of that board and its executive officer.

“(2) Any provision of existing law that provides for the appointment of board members and specifies the qualifications and tenure of board members shall not be implemented and shall have no force or effect while that board is inoperative or repealed. Every reference to the inoperative or repealed board, as defined in Section 477, shall be deemed to be a reference to the department.”

6. Section 118, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated. Under



1 Section 2892.1, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within four years after the  
2 expiration.

3 7. Section 150 states: "The department is under the control of a civil executive  
4 officer who is known as the Director of Consumer Affairs."

5 8. Section 477 states:

6 As used in this division:

7 "(a) "Board" includes "bureau," "commission," "committee," "department,"  
8 "division," "examining committee," "program," and "agency."

9 "(b) "License" includes certificate, registration or other means to engage in a  
10 business or profession regulated by this code."

11 9. Section 490 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may suspend or  
12 revoke a license when it finds that the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related  
13 to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensed vocational nurse.

14 10. Section 2875 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline the  
15 holder of a vocational nurse license for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with  
16 section 2875) of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act.

17 11. Section 2878 states, in pertinent part:

18 "The Board may suspend or revoke a license issued under this chapter [the  
19 Vocational Nursing Practice Act (Bus. & Prof. Code, 2840, et seq.)] for any of the following:

20 "(a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the  
21 following:

22 . . . .

23 "(f) Conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions,  
24 and duties of a licensed vocational nurse, in which event the record of the conviction shall be  
25 conclusive evidence of the conviction.

26 . . . .

27 "(j) The commission of any act involving dishonesty, when that action is  
28 related to the duties and functions of the licensee. . . ."





## COST RECOVERY

14. Section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

## FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### **(Convictions of Substantially-Related Crimes)**

15. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Sections 490 and 2878, subdivision (f), in conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2521, in that Respondent committed crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensed vocational nurse which to a substantial degree evidence her present or potential unfitness as a licensed vocational nurse to perform the functions authorized by her license in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare. The convictions are as follow:

#### a. Driving Under the Influence, a Misdemeanor

On or about January 10, 2007, after pleading *nolo contendere*, Respondent was convicted of one misdemeanor count of violating Vehicle Code section 23152(a) [driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs]; and one misdemeanor count of violating section 20002(a) [hit and run with property damage] in the criminal proceeding entitled *The People of the State of California v. Stephanie Dawson* (Super. Ct. Los Angeles County, 2007, No. SA062648). The Court sentenced Respondent to fifteen (15) days in jail, and ordered her to pay fines and restitution. She was also placed on three (3) years probation.

b. The circumstances of the conviction are that on or about December 31, 2006, at approximately 11:37 pm, Hawthorne Police Department officers pursued Respondent driving her vehicle in speeds exceeding the speed limit to endanger the safety of others, especially, New Years Eve revelers. After Respondent's vehicle stopped, she fled on foot. The officers arrested Respondent for displaying symptoms of intoxication.

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1 c. Driving with Suspended License, a Misdemeanor

2 On or about January 5, 2007, after pleading *nolo contendere*, Respondent  
3 was convicted of one misdemeanor count of violating Vehicle Code section 14601.1(a) [driving  
4 with a suspended license] in the criminal proceeding entitled *The People of the State of*  
5 *California v. Stephanie Melissa Dawson* (Super. Ct. Los Angeles County, 2004,  
6 No. 4MT04663). The Court sentenced Respondent to ten (10) days in jail and placed her on  
7 three (3) years probation.

8 d. The circumstances of the conviction are that on or about February 13,  
9 2004, as part of a routine traffic stop, officers of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
10 issued a citation to Respondent for driving a vehicle while her license was suspended, and  
11 arrested her.

12 e. Driving Under the Influence with Blood-Alcohol Content Greater than  
13 0.08%, a Misdemeanor

14 On or about February 15, 2001, after pleading *nolo contendere*,  
15 Respondent was convicted of one misdemeanor count of violating Vehicle Code section  
16 23152(b) [driving a vehicle while under the influence with a blood alcohol greater than 0.08%, to  
17 wit, 0.15%], in the criminal proceeding entitled *The People of the State of California v.*  
18 *Stephanie Melissa Dawson* (Super. Ct. Los Angeles County, 2001, No. 1SG0237801). The  
19 Court sentenced Respondent to four (4) days in jail, and ordered her to pay fines and restitution,  
20 and to attend a thirty (30) month multiple offender program. She was also placed on three (3)  
21 years probation.

22 f. The circumstances of the conviction are that on or about October 30, 2001,  
23 California Highway Patrol, Santa Fe Springs Station, officers arrested Respondent for driving  
24 under the influence of alcohol.

25 g. Hit and Run with Property Damage, a Misdemeanor

26 On or about November 21, 2001, after pleading *nolo contendere*,  
27 Respondent was convicted of one misdemeanor count of violating Vehicle Code  
28 section 20002(a) [hit and run resulting in injury] in the criminal proceeding entitled *The People*



1 of the State of California v. Stephanie Melissa Dawson (Super. Ct. San Bernardino County, 2000,  
2 No. TVA85177). The Court sentenced Respondent to thirty (30) days in jail, and ordered her to  
3 pay fines and restitution. The Court also ordered that an ignition device be installed on  
4 Respondent's vehicle, and placed her on three (3) years probation.

5 h. The circumstances of the conviction are that on or about March 5, 2000,  
6 Fontana Police Department officers arrested Respondent after she drove a vehicle without a valid  
7 driver's license, was involved in a traffic accident resulting in damage to property, and failed to  
8 stop her vehicle at the scene of an accident

9 i. Driving Under the Influence, a Misdemeanor

10 On or about March 16, 1999, after pleading *guilty*, Respondent was  
11 convicted of one misdemeanor count of violating Vehicle Code section 23152(a) [driving under  
12 the influence] in the criminal proceeding entitled *The People of the State of California v.*  
13 *Stephanie Melissa Dawson* (Super. Ct. San Bernardino County, 1999, No. MWV050663). The  
14 Court sentenced Respondent to eighteen (18) days in jail, and ordered her to pay fines and  
15 restitution, and complete a first offender alcohol program. Respondent was also placed on  
16 three (3) years probation.

17 j. The circumstances of the conviction are that on or about February 27,  
18 1999, Upland Police Department officers performed a routine traffic stop on Respondent for  
19 driving under the influence of alcohol. Upon the officers request of her identity, Respondent  
20 represented her name to be Opal Nell Strong, of Upland, California 91786. Upon admission of  
21 her true name, Respondent informed the officers that in prior confrontations with the law, instead  
22 of her own name, she used her sister's name to elude arrest in her name. Respondent was  
23 arrested.

24 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

25 **(Alcohol-Related Convictions)**

26 16. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2878,  
27 subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct as defined in Section 2878.5,  
28 subdivision (c), in that on or about March 16, 1999, on or about February 15, 2002, and on or

1 about January 10, 2007, Respondent was convicted of crimes involving the consumption of  
2 alcoholic beverages. Complainant now refers to and incorporates all the allegations set forth  
3 above in paragraph 15, subparagraphs a, b, e, f, i, and j, as though set forth fully.

### 4 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

#### 5 **(Dangerous Use of Alcohol)**

6 17. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2878,  
7 subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct as defined in Section 2878.5,  
8 subdivision (b), in that Respondent used alcoholic beverages in a manner dangerous to herself  
9 and others. Complainant now refers to and incorporates all the allegations set forth above in  
10 paragraph 15, subparagraphs a, b, e, f, i, and j, as though set forth fully.

### 11 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

#### 12 **(Dishonest Acts)**

13 18. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2878,  
14 subdivision (j), in that Respondent committed the following acts involving dishonesty:

15 a. On February 27, 1999, Respondent gave a false name to arresting  
16 police officers;

17 b. On March 5, 2000, Respondent drove a vehicle without a valid  
18 driver's license, hit another vehicle with her car resulting in property damage, and  
19 left the scene of the accident; and

20 c. On February 13, 2004, Respondent drove a vehicle without a valid  
21 driver's license.

22 Complainant now refers to and incorporates all the allegations set forth above in paragraph 15,  
23 subparagraphs, c, d, g, h, i, and j, as though set forth fully.

### 24 **DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS**

25 19. To determine the degree of discipline, Complainant alleges that:

26 a. On or about February 8, 1996, Respondent unlawfully and falsely  
27 impersonated another, namely, Detria Bolton. On or about April 15, 1999, after pleading *guilty*,  
28 Respondent was convicted of one felony count, subsequently reduced to a misdemeanor, of



1 violating Penal Code section 529 [false personation of another] in the criminal proceeding  
2 entitled *The People of the State of California v. Stephanie Melissa Dawson* (Super. Ct. Los  
3 Angeles County, 1996, No. KA033182). The Court sentenced Respondent to eighty-seven (87)  
4 days in a jail work program, and three (3) years probation.

5           b.       On or about February 15, 1993, Beverly Hills Police Department officers  
6 arrested Respondent for driving with a suspended license. On or about February 16, 1993, after  
7 pleading *guilty*, Respondent was convicted of one misdemeanor count of violating Vehicle Code  
8 section 14601.1(a) [driving a vehicle with a suspended license] in the criminal proceeding  
9 entitled *The People of the State of California v. Stephanie Melissa Dawson* (Super. Ct. Los  
10 Angeles County, 1993, No. 93M00373). The Court ordered Respondent to perform sixty-five  
11 hours of community service in lieu of jail time, and placed Respondent on two (2) years  
12 probation.

13           c.       On or about December 24, 1990, San Bernardino County Sheriff's officers  
14 arrested Respondent for embezzlement. On or about March 17, 1993, after pleading *guilty*,  
15 Respondent was convicted of one misdemeanor count of violating Penal Code section 508  
16 [embezzlement] in the criminal proceeding entitled *The People of the State of California v.*  
17 *Stephanie Dawson* (Super. Ct. San Bernardino County, 1991, No. MCH13707). The Court  
18 sentenced Respondent to sixteen (16) days in jail, and a 40-hour work sentence program.  
19 Respondent was placed on two (2) years probation.

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**PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Director issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Vocational Nurse License No. VN 181769, issued to Respondent;
2. Ordering Respondent to pay the Bureau the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Section 125.3; and
3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: September 25, 2008

  
TERESA BELLO-JONES, J.D., M.S.N., R.N.  
Executive Officer  
Bureau of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
Complainant

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